

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - March 16, 2017



2017 Women's History Month Event

This year's Women's History Month Reception brought GFWC clubwomen and community members together to celebrate women's contributions to society. We were proud to have Page Harrington, Executive Director of the National Woman's Party, as this year's keynote speaker. Before Harrington's informative presentation about the history of the National Woman's Party, the women's suffrage movement, and the Equal Rights Amendment, GFWC was presented with a special gift from clubwoman Justine Davis of Dover, Delaware. In the place of a very generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous, Justine donated a photo by famous photographer Mathew Brady. This 1894 photograph by Mathew Brady features twenty-two suffragists, among them Susan B. Anthony and two GFWC clubwomen—including Emily Ketcham of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The photo was part of clubwoman Emily Ketcham's personal collection. GFWC is honored to receive this gift and celebrate the legacy of those who fought for women's right to vote. Harrington's presentation touched upon the sacrifices these suffragists made as they worked for equality and how



GFWC — an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service

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Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate

their story is told at the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, which was designated as a national monument by President Barack Obama on April 12, 2016. As the headquarters of the National Woman's Party, the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality Monument is home to numerous objects representing the women's suffrage movement. Harrington spoke about the importance of the headquarters being rededicated as the first national monument for women and about the progress that still needs to be made. This year's Women's History Month Event left attendees inspired to learn more about the women's suffrage movement and the contributions women have made throughout society. Please [click here](#) to learn more about the National Woman's Party.



Celebrate Youth Art Month

Art is an important part of life and enriches us in so many ways, but it is often first to get hit by budget cuts in schools, leaving children without the means to express themselves. This makes Youth Art Month, created by the Council for Art Education, even more important. Held every year in March, Youth Art Month promotes art education and celebrates the importance of the visual arts. Through student exhibitions, art festivals, and events, this observance raises awareness of the arts to grab the attention of education officials, community leaders, and legislators. Through the GFWC Arts Community Service Program, clubwomen support the arts in a variety of creative ways, including organizing art supply drives, painting murals at schools, and teaching drawing classes. This year's Youth Art

Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org and you're all set!

Cares and Concerns

GFWC regrets that we must inform you Lorraine Seale-Hibdon, Past State President of California Junior Federation from 1960-1961, passed away March 1. We know GFWC California has lost a great leader.

We are saddened to share the news that Linda Dodd's husband Bill passed away on March 12. Our thoughts and prayers are with Linda during this difficult time.

Our hearts go out to T Jablanski, 2016-2018 Assistant to the Director of Junior Clubs, as her stepfather passed away on March 13.

Month theme is "United Through Art," and we encourage you to share the love of art in some way this month.

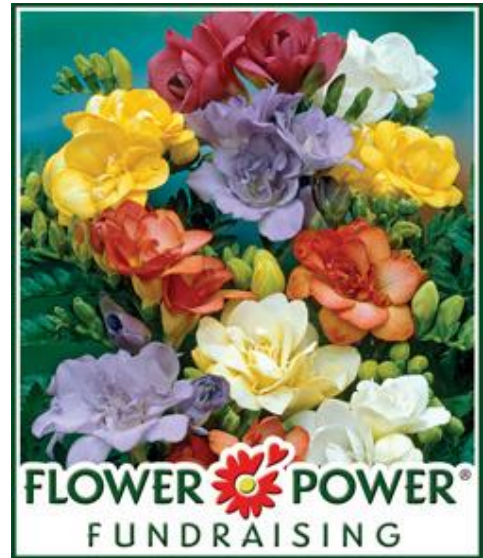
"If we acknowledge the value of experiences in the arts, what can we do to promote the arts in our schools?" GFWC Arts Community Service Program Chairman Kristina Higbee poses this question and offers some ideas about promoting Youth Art Month in a post on the GFWC blog: www.gfwc.org/celebrate-youth-art-month/. In addition to reading Kristina's blog, be sure to check out the *GFWC Club Manual* for project ideas.

GFWC Colorado Reaches Out to the Hearing Impaired

Due to her family's experience with hearing loss, GFWC Colorado President Patty Witzel selected support of the [Marion Downs Center](#) as the Special Project for her administration. The Marion Downs Center provides culturally sensitive services, resources, education, and research to support the needs of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who have communication challenges. President Witzel's husband suffers from hearing loss, and she knows firsthand what a difference learning effective communication strategies from the Marion Downs Center can make.

One of President Witzel's goals for the project is to educate the public on how to recognize and assist the hearing impaired during day-to-day interactions. President Witzel advises us to remember that successful communication requires the effort of everyone involved. You can assist those with hearing concerns by taking these easy steps:

- Face the hearing impaired person directly.
- Do not talk from another room. Not being able to see each other when talking is a common reason people have difficulty understanding what is said.
- Speak clearly, slowly, distinctly, but naturally, without shouting or exaggerating mouth movements.
- Avoid speaking too rapidly or using sentences that are too complex.



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An extra 5% from every sale goes directly to GFWC to support national projects.

www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com/GFWC or call 1-888-833-1486.

Join the GFWC Juniorette Instagram

GFWC has launched an Instagram site focusing on Junioresettes with the goal of sharing project ideas, applauding

In addition to educational endeavors, GFWC Colorado will be providing opportunities for the families of hearing impaired individuals to socialize and network with one another. Colorado clubwomen are funding their Special Project through the collection of cancelled stamps and monetary contributions. This project will keep countless Colorado residents from missing out on the priceless interactions so many of us take for granted.



Changing Lives Two Feet at a Time

The **GFWC Central Valley Contemporary Club** (New Jersey) recently hosted a shoe cutting party to benefit [Sole Hope](#). The charity, Sole Hope, began when one of the founders, Asher Collies, viewed a documentary on jiggers and their devastating impact on children in Uganda. Jiggers, or chigoe fleas, burrow into the skin of uncovered feet and lay eggs causing swelling, itching, and infection. In the worst cases, jigger infestations can lead to the amputation of toes and even death. Most sufferers are unable to walk or carry out normal daily activities such as going to school.

After extensively researching the problem, Asher knew the solution was simple: closed toe shoes would protect children's feet from jiggers. While the idea is simple, the execution is not. Sole Hope runs a complex operation that includes charitable individuals in the U.S. who cut shoe patterns; professional shoe makers in Uganda who construct the shoes; and trained medical staff who treat children that have already fallen victim to jiggers.

achievements, and motivating others to become members. Instagram is an online mobile photo-sharing, video-sharing, and social networking service that enables its users to take pictures, and share them via the app. All content on the app will relate to our Juniorette members as they are often less prominently featured in our other social media and print publications.

To make the GFWC Instagram a success, we will need the help of Juniorette Club sponsors. If you would like the Juniorette Club you sponsor to be featured on the site, please send a photograph of a recent project or event as well as a short caption (100 words or less) to the GFWC Communications and Public Relations staff at pr@gfwc.org.

Learn how to join Instagram and follow the GFWC Juniorette site by [clicking here](#).

Join the GFWC Boosters

The GFWC Boosters Club is a national GFWC club whose members are husbands, partners, or male relatives who share the commitment to assist GFWC with their national/local projects and goals. Dues are \$50 per two-year administration and go to support maintenance projects at GFWC Headquarters. Complete [this form](#) to become a GFWC Booster. This form will also be available at 2017 Convention if you're interested in joining.

If your club is interested in following the lead of the Central Valley Contemporary Club, consider throwing a [shoe cutting party](#) of your own. Simply decide how many clubwomen would like to participate, then purchase the corresponding shoe cutting kit from the organization's website. The kit includes an instructional DVD, cutting pattern, and educational materials. When sending out invitations, ask each attendee to bring a pair of blue jeans (gently used is fine), plastic items such as milk jugs or thin plastic folders, and a \$10 donation to sponsor shipping and completion of the shoes. After the party, the host will mail the shoe components and the monetary donations to the charity's headquarters in Salisbury, North Carolina.

We thank Gale Kovacs-Felici, Secretary of the GFWC Central Valley Contemporary Club, for bringing this worthy charity to the attention of her Federation Sisters.

Partner Spotlight: Sew Much Comfort

Since 2004, Sew Much Comfort has proudly supported those who serve. We greatly appreciate and are truly blessed with our amazing volunteer seamstresses, donors, and partners who have helped us to "honor, remember and support" our wounded service members as they recover and transition back into their communities. Everyone's generosity has helped us deliver more than 152,000 pieces of adaptive clothing to our Veterans. Thank you, we are very grateful for everyone's generosity and support.

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To learn how your club can help, visit our web site: www.sewmuchcomfort.org. Under "Volunteer" click "GFWC" in the drop down menu. Here you will find suggestions and printable information to assist you. Feel free to contact us

In The News

The **GFWC Santa Rosa Woman's Club** (Florida) was profiled in the *Press Gazette* as an organization that improves the quality of life in the community. The article features background on GFWC and the club, highlighting service projects and the club's history. [Click here](#) to read the article.

for any help, or to have information sent to you: Michele Cuppy at mmc.cuppy@comcast.net or Joy Campbell at jcampb1045@aol.com.

Our Military humbly continues to serve our nation both at home and overseas. Please keep our Military in your thoughts and prayers and thank those who have made our freedom possible, yesterday, today and into the future.

A Birthday to Remember: GFWC Pathfinder Club Celebrates 100 Years of Service with the Library They Founded

By Janna Virden, GFWC Pathfinder Club President

In 1916, the GFWC Pathfinder Club founded the first lending library in Morrilton, the county seat of Conway County, Arkansas, by obtaining a Carnegie Foundation grant. According to Linda Green, Directory of Youth and Outreach Services of the Conway County Library and also a member of the GFWC Pathfinder Club, the grant wasn't automatic and the Foundation had to be convinced. She said Morrilton was considered, "Too small a community, too rural and too risky." But the ladies didn't give up. They got community support and backing. Finally, their grant was approved.

To celebrate the library's 100 years of continual service to the citizens of Conway County, the GFWC Pathfinder Club and the library partnered for a year-long birthday celebration. Club members provided food and volunteered for events throughout the year. Each month highlighted a different decade in which the library was running. For example, a lunch and learn in April focused on the 1940s and WWII with a special Victory Gardens speaker and display of Morrilton native Nathan Gordon's Medal of Honor earned in WWII. The highlight of the centennial celebration was held in October when club members presented a history of the library's founding to the public. A GFWC joint luncheon for Conway County Clubs was held before this particular lunch and learn. The goal of the members of the GFWC Pathfinder Club and the staff of the library were the same for this centennial event: "Get the Public Involved!" Hundreds of community members came to events throughout the year and

the relationship between the library and their patrons grew in a large part because of the role of the women of the GFWC Pathfinder Club. We are grateful to the women who had a long view for helping their community 100 years ago and to the women today who continue their service.



Marketplace: GFWC License Plate Frame

Show off your
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with a GFWC License Plate Frame! This white frame with the blue GFWC logo and *Living the Volunteer Spirit* tagline fits easily around your car's license plate and is the perfect way to spread awareness of GFWC. [Click here](#) to order yours for \$5 each at the GFWC Marketplace.

Our Contact Information

General Federation of Women's Clubs
1734 N. Street NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-347-3168

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